

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTION
TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, there is broad agreement among the worldwide scientific community that increasing emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases released to the atmosphere are affecting the earth's climate; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as energy conservation and development of renewable energy sources may have multiple benefits, including economic development, job creation, cost savings and improved air quality that are not limited to individual state boundaries; and

WHEREAS, regional technical and policy collaboration to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions can build upon individual state efforts by coordinating and combining available resources, enhancing communication and dialogue, and promoting and advancing clean energy technologies that are economically and environmentally beneficial to the City of Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40 percent decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including: increased risk of floods or droughts; sea-level rises that interact with coastal storms to erode beaches, inundate land, and damage structures; more frequent and extreme heat waves;

1 more frequent and greater concentrations of smog; and

2 WHEREAS, on February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement
3 to address climate disruption, went into effect in the 141 countries that have ratified it to date, and
4 38 of those countries are now legally required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on average 5.2
5 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States of America, with less than five percent of the world's
7 population, is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming
8 pollutants; and

9 WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol emissions reduction target for the U.S. would have
10 been 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

11 WHEREAS, many leading U.S. companies that have adopted greenhouse gas
12 reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed
13 preference for the U.S. to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means
14 by which to remain competitive in the international marketplace, to mitigate financial risk and to
15 promote sound investment decisions; and

16 WHEREAS, state and local governments throughout the United States are adopting
17 emission reduction targets and programs, and such leadership efforts are bipartisan, coming from
18 Republican and Democratic governors and mayors alike; and

19 WHEREAS, many cities throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing
20 global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such
21 as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic
22 congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through
23 energy conservation and new energy technologies; and

24 WHEREAS, the City of Las Vegas has identified as a strategic priority to create,
25 integrate, and manage orderly and sustainable development and growth of the community; and

26 WHEREAS, the City is a leader in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through
27 the use of alternative fuel vehicles, with 87% of the City's non-emergency fleet running on
28 alternative fuels and comprising a significant portion of the 7,000 alternative fuel vehicles operating

1 in Southern Nevada; and

2 WHEREAS, the City provides incentives and subsidies to employees who commute
3 by mass transit, van pool or car pool, has increased employee enrollment in the Club Ride Program
4 in May of 2006 by 18%, and is recognized by the EPA as one of America's "Best Workplaces for
5 Commuters"; and

6 WHEREAS, all new public facilities to be built by the City will be built to meet or
7 exceed the standards of the United States Green Building Council LEED-Silver rating scale
8 requirements; and

9 WHEREAS, the City actively promotes the development of mass transit options
10 throughout the City and the Southern Nevada region including light rail, monorail, bus rapid transit
11 and a super speed train connecting Las Vegas with Primm, Nevada and ultimately with Barstow and
12 Anaheim, California; and

13 WHEREAS, the City actively promotes the creation and maintenance of open space
14 through the implementation of the Conservation, Parks and Recreational Trails Elements of the Las
15 Vegas Master Plan 2020; and

16 WHEREAS, the City actively promotes the planting of trees and for thirteen years
17 has been recognized as a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation; and

18 WHEREAS, mayors from around the nation have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate
19 Protection Agreement which, as amended at the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting,
20 reads as follows:

21 **The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement**

22 **A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to**
23 **meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990**
24 **levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and**
25 **accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient**
26 **technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy,**
27 **wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;**

28 **B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that**

1 includes 1) clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a flexible, market-based system of
2 tradable allowances among emitting industries; and

3 **C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming**
4 **pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:**

- 5 1. **Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community,**
6 **set reduction targets and create an action plan;**
- 7 2. **Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space,**
8 **and create compact, walkable urban communities;**
- 9 3. **Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction**
10 **programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;**
- 11 4. **Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in “green**
12 **tags,” advocating for the development of renewable energy resources,**
13 **recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of**
14 **waste to energy technology;**
- 15 5. **Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements,**
16 **retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to**
17 **conserve energy and save money;**
- 18 6. **Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;**
- 19 7. **Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green**
20 **Building Council’s LEED program or a similar system;**
- 21 8. **Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the**
22 **number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-**
23 **idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;**
- 24 9. **Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater**
25 **systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;**
- 26 10. **Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;**
- 27 11. **Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and**
28 **to absorb CO₂; and**

1 **12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations,**
2 **business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.**

3 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Las
4 Vegas endorses the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and will continue to be a leader in
5 the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through:

- 6 ● Continuing to increase the percentage of vehicles that use alternative fuel in the City's
7 non-emergency fleet.
- 8 ● Expanding the availability and use of mass transit for the employees, residents and visitors
9 of the City.
- 10 ● Developing neighborhood parks in areas with deficient service levels and develop
11 mini-parks/urban parks in areas of high density.
- 12 ● Requiring that new residential development provide adequate neighborhood parks as
13 development occurs.
- 14 ● Improving streetscape enhancements in the highly urbanized areas of the City.
- 15 ● Maintaining recognition by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA.
- 16 ● Establishing programs and incentives to encourage builders and developers to implement
17 green building practices.

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- Encouraging the Clark County Board of County Commissioners, and the Mayors of Henderson, North Las Vegas, Boulder City and Mesquite to support the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.
- Promoting the efforts of the City in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2006.

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

BY _____
OSCAR B. GOODMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

BARBARA JO RONEMUS, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Val Keel 7/15/06
Date